



This blue goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge

2013 Elk Hunting

Information and Regulations

Background

Elk hunt management on the National Elk Refuge is designed to achieve optimum herd size as determined through a cooperative effort between National Elk Refuge, Grand Teton National Park, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department managers.

General Information

During the hunt application process, hunters do not need to apply to hunt in a specific unit within the National Elk Refuge. All Refuge permits will be valid for either the North or South hunt unit, but hunters must understand and comply with weapons restrictions based on the area where they will be hunting. See the section entitled "On-Line Permit Application" for further information on obtaining a permit.

Elk hunting on the National Elk Refuge (Hunt Area 77) is permitted from October 12 through December 15, 2013, unless the season for Hunt Area 77 closes earlier.

Ten hunt periods will be available to hunters. Hunt periods are generally 1 week long:

- Period #1: October 12 - 13
(Youth hunt only. See p. 4)
- Period #2: October 14 - 20
- Period #3: October 21 - 27
- Period #4: October 28 - November 3
- Period #5: November 4 - 10
- Period #6: November 11 - 17
- Period #7: November 18 - 24
- Period #8: November 25 - December 1
- Period #9: December 2 - 8
- Period #10: December 9 - 15

"Any Elk" permits will be issued during the first two hunt periods for persons hunting in the North Unit; "Antlerless Only" permits will be issued for the remaining eight hunt periods (October 21 through December 15). As in previous years, South Unit hunters are limited to antlerless only elk during all 10 hunt periods. Limited quota cow/calf licenses (Type 6) are excluded during "Any Elk" week.

Application Information

To apply for an elk hunting permit to hunt on the National Elk Refuge, hunters must complete an application on-line (see On-Line Permit Application) between August 14 - September 25, initially applying for only one hunt period. The results of the computerized random draw will be posted on the application web site by September 26.

On September 26, the on-line system will continue to be active to allow access to any permits that were not issued during the initial random draw. Any unissued (leftover) permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Persons who were successful for one hunt period during the September 26 drawing may reapply for a first-come, first-served leftover permit valid for another hunt period.

Permit holders with two valid Wyoming elk hunting licenses may use and fill both licenses while hunting on the Refuge.

Hunters attempting to fill two valid licenses during the same hunt period do not need to apply for two Refuge permits.

On-Line Permit Application

The application process for National Elk Refuge elk hunting permits is conducted in cooperation with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department Private Lands Public Wildlife Access Program. Applications are available at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/plpwfrontend2008/default.aspx>. Enter your personal information as requested to begin the application process.

For a direct link to the web site, visit the National Elk Refuge's web page at <http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge>, and click on "Apply for a National Elk Refuge Elk Hunting Permit." Hunters do not need to distinguish whether they will be hunting in the North Unit or the South Unit Limited Range Weapons area; a valid permit will be applicable for either hunt area.

Alternate Permits

Alternate permits differ from leftover permits, because alternate permits do not

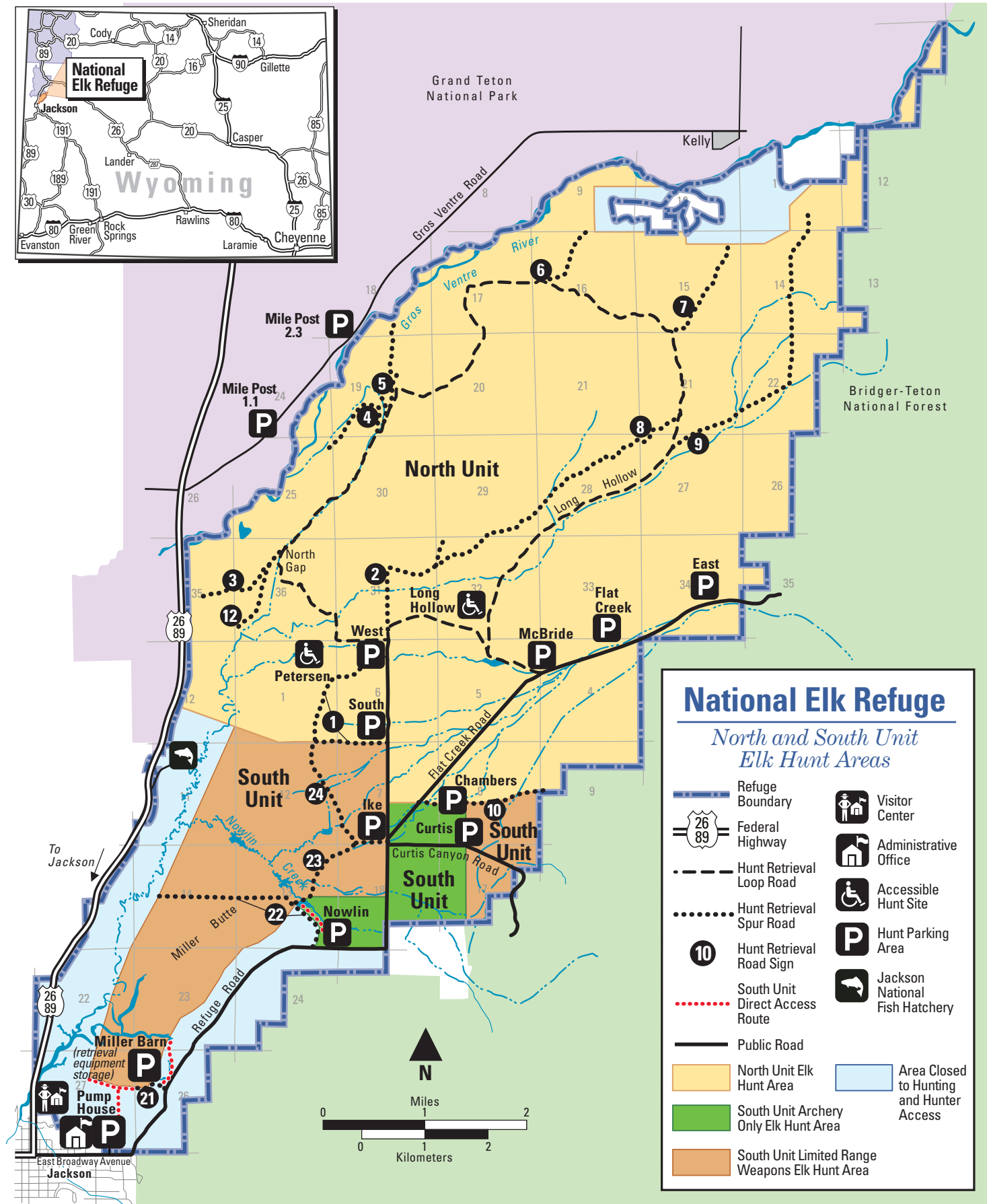
become available until after the season has begun. Alternate permits help Refuge managers ensure that the harvest is adequate to achieve the optimum healthy herd size and will be issued each Monday of the hunt season, excluding the first two hunt periods (October 12 - 20). The number of alternate permits issued will vary, depending on hunter harvest rates and participation. Alternate permits will be issued on:

- October 21
- October 28
- November 4
- November 11
- November 18
- November 25
- December 2
- December 9

To disperse hunters over the hunt period, half of the alternate permits issued will be valid for Monday through Friday of the respective week, and the remaining half will be valid for Wednesday through Sunday of the same week.

Alternate permits will be issued on-line each week through a lottery system that uses a computerized random draw. This is in response to the high demand and rapid distribution during the first-come, first-served system used for alternate permits over the past few years. Applicants will use the same on-line system outlined above (see On-Line Permit Application). Hunters must apply for an alternate permit between Friday at 9:00 am and Sunday at 11:59 pm MST for the upcoming week. Hunters will designate during the application process if they want to be considered for a Monday - Friday or a Wednesday - Sunday alternate permit for the upcoming week. The results of the weekly computerized random draw for alternate permits will be posted on the application web site by 11:00 am each Monday morning.

Individuals who were already successful in obtaining a permit for another hunt period may still apply for an alternate permit.



Special Regulations for Elk Hunting on the National Elk Refuge (Hunt Area 77)

- All State of Wyoming hunting regulations (available online at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Home.aspx>) are in effect and will be enforced. Hunters must review all regulations prior to hunting on the Refuge. Refuge hunting permits may be revoked in the event of improper hunter conduct or violation of regulations, and future Refuge hunting privileges could be denied.
- Hunters are responsible for knowing and observing hunt boundaries (see map). Much of the North and South Unit hunt boundaries are identified by signs and posts. The North Unit hunt area is bounded on the west by the Highway 26/89 fence line and on the north by the south bank of the Gros Ventre River main channel.
- The following items must be in the hunter's possession while elk hunting on the Refuge:
 - Refuge elk hunting permit
 - Valid State hunting license
 - Valid Hunter Safety or Instructor Card or certificate for persons born on or after January 1, 1966
 - Wyoming Conservation Stamp
 - Wyoming Elk Feed Ground Special Management Permit
- The Wyoming Hunter Mentor Program is valid on the National Elk Refuge. Contact the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for further information on the program or apply at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/EDUCATION-1000248.aspx>
- Legal shooting times are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- A fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations must be worn by anyone in a hunt area. Hunters need to ensure that anyone accompanying them is compliant with this regulation.
- Only one person without a permit may accompany a hunter and must stay with the hunter at all times.
- Persons may only discharge firearms while actively hunting with a valid Refuge permit in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).
- Hunters are limited to a maximum of seven cartridges in possession per day per license in either hunt unit.

- Certified weed-free livestock feed is required on the Refuge.
- Hunters are only allowed into hunt areas on the dates listed on their valid permit.
- The North and South Unit hunt areas each have distinct weapons that are allowed. Hunters are responsible for knowing which weapons can be used in the hunt area they are accessing.

South Unit

- Hunters present in the South Unit must carry an appropriate limited range weapon.
- South Unit hunters are restricted to limited range weapons, including muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, or shotguns with slugs.
- Rifled barrels and sighting systems are recommended for hunters using a shotgun.
- All handguns must meet the Wyoming Game & Fish Department's definition of a legal firearm for the taking of big game and must use straight-walled cartridges with a barrel length no longer than 12 inches.
- Using rifles that shoot black powder cartridges is prohibited in the South Unit.

North Unit

- North Unit hunters may hunt with any legal weapon as defined by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department for the taking of big game, including rifles, hand guns, black powder firearms, and archery equipment.

Prohibited activities include:

- Parking along Refuge roads
- Pursuing or following elk by vehicle, including between parking areas
- Target or practice shooting
- Shooting wildlife other than elk without a permit
- Shooting from parking areas or Refuge roads
- Overnight camping or parking, including in the parking lots or hunt areas
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- Collection of specimens, including but not limited to antlers, skulls, and artifacts.

Additional Regulations for Archery Hunting on the Refuge

- Archery hunters on the Refuge must wear a fluorescent orange exterior garment as defined by State regulations.
- Archery hunters are exempt from the hunter safety certificate requirement.
- Hunters within the archery only hunt area (see map) must maintain a minimum distance of 200 yards from residences.

Refuge Access and Travel

- Access to and from Refuge elk hunt areas is primarily allowed through the main Refuge entrance at the end of East Broadway Avenue in Jackson.
- Additional parking areas at Milepost 1.1 and 2.3 on the Gros Ventre Road are available for Refuge elk hunters pursuing elk with a valid license. However, retrieval of elk will not be permitted back to the Gros Ventre Road parking areas .
- A parking and access area located on Highway 89 is for use by permitted bison hunters only and is not available for Refuge elk hunters.
- Vehicles parked on the Refuge must be in a designated hunt parking area.
- Hunters may not exit vehicles or be dropped off on roads between hunter parking areas.
- Several of the designated South Unit hunter parking areas are outside of the hunt boundary. Hunters must travel on the direct access route from the parking lot into the hunt area (see map). Other areas of the Refuge outside of the hunt boundaries are closed to hunter access and use, including elk retrieval.
- Motorized vehicle travel in a hunt area is prohibited except as noted in the section entitled "Retrieval of Harvested Animals."
- Horses and bicycles are permitted in a hunt area, but bicycles must remain on designated retrieval roads.
- ATVs must be registered, insured, and operated by a licensed driver. ATVs may only be driven on Refuge roads to one of the hunter parking areas and are not allowed on Refuge retrieval roads.
- Bear spray is recommended for all persons participating in the Refuge hunt program.

Youth Hunting

A special youth elk hunt is held in both the North and South Units during the first hunt period, (October 12-13), when permits for the North Unit will be issued only to youths age 12-17. Youths must be accompanied by an experienced non-hunting adult during the special youth elk hunt and will be subject to State and Refuge regulations. All hunters, including youths, are restricted to antlerless only elk while hunting in the South Unit.

During all other weeks of the elk hunting season:

- Youths age 12-13 may hunt in the North Unit if they are accompanied by an experienced hunting or non-hunting adult.
- Youths age 14-17 may hunt in the North Unit but do not need to be accompanied by an adult.
- Youths age 12-17 may hunt in the South Unit if they are accompanied by an experienced hunting or non-hunting adult.

Additional age restrictions required by the State of Wyoming are in effect and will be enforced.

Retrieval of Harvested Animals

The following information will assist successful hunters in retrieval of elk:

- Designated retrieval roads will be open to vehicle travel to retrieve elk from 2:00 pm to dark.
- Elk should be dragged to the nearest retrieval road (see map). Hunters must return by the most direct route to the parking lot. Driving off designated roads is prohibited.
- Note that retrieval of elk to Gros Ventre Road parking areas is not allowed. Hunters must relocate their vehicles to within the Refuge boundary to retrieve an animal.
- Successful hunters may not transport other hunters into a hunt area. Only the successful hunter and helper(s) may be in the vehicle.
- The Refuge has wheeled carts and sleds available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Miller Barn in order to assist hunters.
- Commercial retrieval services are available for a fee. Current businesses authorized to operate on the Refuge are posted on the bulletin board at the Administrative Office on East Broadway Avenue.
- Ear tags and radio collars from harvested animals must be returned to the Administrative Office.
- Refuge roads or parking areas may be temporarily closed due to inclement weather or management considerations.

Web Updates

The National Elk Refuge will regularly post all hunting updates on the Refuge's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge>, including information on the permit application process, alternate permits, drawing times and dates, etc. Please check the web site for updates throughout the season.

Harvest Reports

A blank harvest report for the National Elk Refuge will be provided with your permit. Your completed harvest information is critical to the Refuge's hunting program. Please return the harvest report to one of the locations listed on the document.

Hunters With Disabilities

The National Elk Refuge encourages hunters with disabilities to participate in the elk hunt program and seeks to afford them reasonable accommodation for the activity.

Hunters who have both a Wyoming Game & Fish Disabled Hunter Permit and a National Elk Refuge permit are eligible to reserve a designated accessible hunt site. Reservations must be made at the Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center at 532 North Cache Street in Jackson. A hunter with a Disabled Hunter Permit who wants to use an accessible site, but does not have a reservation, must stop at the Visitor Center. There, the hunter will receive a reservation confirmation and instructions entitled "2013 Hunting Procedures for Persons with Physical Disabilities." The disabled hunter companion permit is not valid on the Refuge.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 307 / 733 9212, or the U.S. Department of the Interior; Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department will be conducting Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance again this season. Results from samples submitted by hunters can be tracked on-line. Contact patrol officers for further information.

Contact Information

Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center
532 North Cache Street
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 734 9378

National Elk Refuge Administrative Office
PO Box 510
675 E. Broadway Avenue
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 733-9212
307 / 733 9729 fax
<http://www.fws.gov/nationalelkrefuge>

Wyoming Game & Fish Department
420 North Cache Street
Jackson, WY 83001
307 / 733-2321

Teton Interagency Dispatch
307 / 739 3301

In an emergency, dial 911.

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

June 2013



Refuge Signs Know Their Meaning



Refuge boundary sign entry by permission only.



Area off limits to the public unless otherwise specified.



Area open to hunting at specific times.